

## “From Sorrow to Joy”

*New Day Church*

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*Luke 2:25-35*

**Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.**

### **Message Summary**

At the end of Luke’s birth narrative of Jesus, he tells us the story of Jesus’ first trip to the temple. In those days, 8 days after childbirth, a new mother and her husband were required to go to the temple and offer the rite of purification because she was considered ceremonially unclean. Further, the family was required to offer sin offerings. So the normal requirements were to bring a lamb and a turtle dove. However, the Law gave a special provision for poor parents to bring an additional turtle dove instead of a lamb. Mary and Joseph were also there to consecrate their first born Son to the Lord. Little did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus, their first born Son, was being dedicated to God for a special purpose and mission that would turn sorrow into joy!

While Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were in the temple, they encountered an old man named Simeon. The only thing we know about Simeon is what we read in Luke 2:25-35. He was a righteous man on whom the Holy Spirit rested. Further, we discover that God had privately told him that he would not see death until he saw the Messiah, the “Consolation of Israel.” Year after year, Simeon would go to the temple only to be discouraged that the Messiah had not yet come.

However, on that faithful day when Simeon saw the baby Jesus presented in the temple, his sorrow turned to joy because he finally saw the Messiah! Quickly taking Jesus into his arms Simeon praised God and rejoiced that now he could go to his eternal home because he had seen the One who would bring light into the world and salvation to the Gentiles. But as Simeon blessed God, he turned to Mary and Joseph, blessed them, and spoke a brief prophetic word directly to Mary.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph’s dedicated first born Son, was appointed by God for a special purpose. He would be a stone of stumbling for some but others would find in Him strength to stand. Many would reject Him but others would rejoice at His appearing. And finally, though sorrow would enter Mary’s heart through His life and death, through it all many will be saved. Truly Mary and Joseph’s Son would turn sorrow into joy.

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week contemplate the story of Simeon’s encounter with the Baby Jesus. Simeon was filled with joy because he saw the Messiah. Has your encounter with the Messiah turned your sorrow to joy? Do you rejoice in your salvation? While you have sorrow over the fact that One died for all do you rejoice in the gift of eternal life He brought you through His death and resurrection? If so, how will you communicate your “Sorrow turned to Joy” to the world? Examine ways you can tell the world that Jesus alone is the source of your strength. He is your only hope. He alone gives you new life. Discuss ways you can share with the world the good news of the One who turns Sorrow to Joy!

### **Message Outline**

Jesus turns our Sorrow to Joy:

1. Many Stumble but we Stand.
2. Many Reject but we Rejoice.
3. One Suffered but we are Saved.

Therefore, let’s tell the world...

1. He is the Source of Strength.
2. He is the Source of Hope.
3. He is the Source of Life.

## “From Sorrow to Joy”

### Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Luke 2:25-35:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

### Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**

- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
- Pray for new DNA groups to start.

- **Local:**

- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.

- **Global:**

- Pray for J & A and their children as they prepare for the mission field.
- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
- Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.